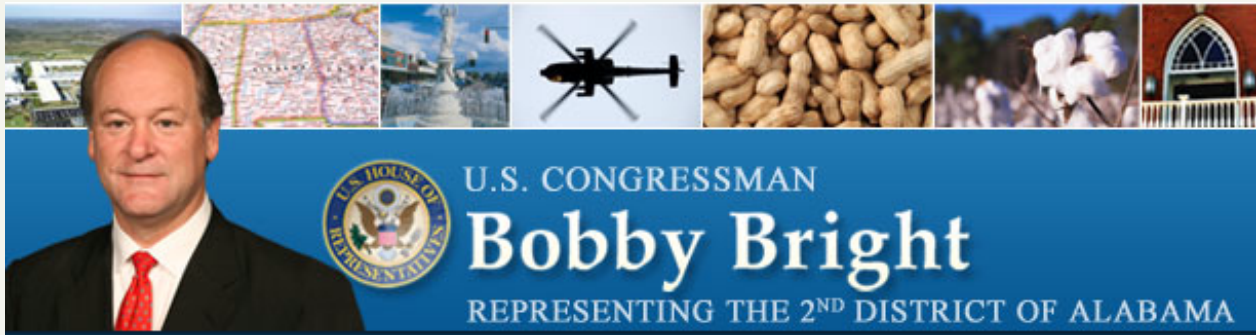


April 29, 2009



Dear Friend,

Last week, the House passed H.R. 1139, the COPS Improvements Act of 2009. The bill reauthorizes the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program for the next five years. The bi-partisan bill passed by an overwhelming 342-78 margin. When I was Mayor of Montgomery, I had a first-hand view of the success of the COPS program in our capital city and I was proud to support legislation that will renew and improve the program.

From 1995 – 2005, the COPS Program helped local law enforcement agencies hire an additional 117,000 police. Additionally, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study spanning three years credited COPS with preventing over 200,000 crimes, one third of those being violent crimes. In recent years, however, funding for COPS hiring grants has been dramatically reduced, and grants were not funded in Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007.

H.R. 1139 restores and improves funding for the COPS competitive hiring grants and will result in up to 50,000 additional police officers over the next five years, including an estimated 800 in Alabama and 178 in the Second District alone. In addition to hiring grants, the COPS Improvement Act of 2009 authorizes technology grants that will help law enforcement agencies purchase lap tops for patrol cars and new interoperable communications equipment.

The COPS Program is a smart use of tax payer money that will improve safety and security throughout southeast Alabama and a great example of how the federal government can effectively aid local communities. Additionally, it has widespread support not only on Capitol Hill, but also from organizations such as the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National District Attorneys' Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities.

#### Army Aviation Hearing on Capitol Hill

Last Thursday, I participated in an Air and Land Forces Subcommittee hearing on Army Aviation Programs. The subcommittee heard testimony from and I asked questions to Brigadier Generals Walter Davis, Director of Army Aviation, and William T. Crosby, Program Executive Officer, Aviation. The hearing addressed the status of aircraft and other equipment, as well as lessons learned from Army Aviation's experience in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As I have written before, Fort Rucker has seen its mission requirements increase due to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but it has yet to see a likewise increase in funding. Defense Secretary Gates's recently announced Defense Budget includes a \$500 million increase in funding for Army Aviation, which will benefit Fort Rucker. I used my time in the committee to ask the generals to expand on how the proposals would specifically affect Fort Rucker.

In response to questions, Generals Crosby and Davis acknowledged that

As a former corrections officer, issues that affect law enforcement have been incredibly important to me.

**Do you, or does someone in your family, work for a law enforcement agency?**

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

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In response to questions, General Greedy and staff acknowledged that Fort Rucker will continue to play an important role in Army Aviation and they looked forward to working with my office and the committee as details develop. I will continue to work in the Armed Services Committee to ensure that any Defense Budget properly addresses Fort Rucker's needs. For a full list of questions I asked or submitted into the record, please visit the press release section on my website at [www.bright.house.gov](http://www.bright.house.gov).

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our offices in Montgomery at (334) 277-9113, Dothan at (334) 794-9680, Opp at (334) 493-9253, or Ozark at (334) 445-4600. It is my great pleasure to serve you and the entire Second District of Alabama.

Sincerely,



Congressman Bobby Bright

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